Mental Health Needs and Service Utilization among Children and Families in the Child Welfare System: Recent Findings from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being

Chair: E. Wayne Holden, Research Triangle Institute
Discussant: Mary Bruce Webb, Administration for Children and Families

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW): History

- Originally funded via the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Title V, Section 429A (PL 104-193)
- Congressional mandate to the HHS Secretary to conduct a “national random sample study of child welfare”

NSCAW Overview

- Target Population: Children (14 and younger) involved in maltreatment investigations that were closed between Oct 1999 and Dec 2000 (N=5,504)
  - Oversampled infants, sexually abused children, and children/families who received child welfare services
- Data sources: children, caregivers, caseworkers, teachers, and child welfare agencies.
- Data Collection (5 waves): baseline, 12-months after the close of the investigation, 18-months, 36-months, and 56-72 months

NSCAW: Measurement Domains

- Child functioning and well-being
- Services to children and families
  - Child Health and Mental Health services
  - Education/Special Education services
  - CWS services
  - Services to meet basic family needs (e.g., TANF)
  - Caregiver mental health and substance abuse services
- Family and caregiver functioning
- Community environment
- Agency and system level factors

Data Release

Baseline to Wave 4 data available to research community through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University (www.ndacan.cornell.edu)